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VISCIDITY AS A SEED-DISTRIBUTOR.—On a recent short botanical excursion with a thirteen year old son, he called my attention to a bunch of dried stems of *Cerastium nutans* which by his pocket lens he had discovered to be “covered with small lice sticking to the glands.” These proved to be seeds, which, adhering in this way to the sticky stems, were thus blown to long distances, and widely distributed! We have had suggestions that viscid glands are for the purpose of absorbing nitrogenous matter,—for obstructing the advance of unwelcome guests,—possibly for some other purposes,—but I have never heard of the seed-distribution. We know that when a dead cat is placed at the root of a grape vine, the plant is often invigorated thereby, but we do not believe that cats were especially designed for grape vine roots, or the roots especially adapted for feeding on dead cats, though indirectly this may be so, and I fancy much of what we hear about “arrangements” in plant structure or behavior, amounts to but little more. Still it is always a gain to know the *fact*, whatever it may be, hence I send you this note —T. MEEHAN.

NOTES FROM ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA.—I suppose that as I write, Oct. 21st, the collecting season is nearly over for northern botanists, while here the wild flowers are blooming in great profusion, and will continue to do so for two or three weeks longer. In ordinary seasons the last two weeks of November and the whole of December afford very little of botanical interest in this section. Nature seems to take a short rest, and January begins the season again with *Viola lanceolata*, *V. cucullata*, *Oldenlandia rotundifolia*, and perhaps *Pinguicula lutea*, *P. pumila* and *P. elatior*.

September and October of this year have been terribly rainy months, making collecting almost impossible. However, four or five days just spent at a “settlement” a few miles from St. Augustine, have yielded good returns. We passed one day, notwithstanding frequent showers, in voyaging over the pine-barrens in a Florida cart, going wherever there seemed to be anything worth gathering. The wet season had caused acres of pine-barren land to bloom with *Bignonia nudata*, DC., while here and there the milk-white corymbs and blossom-stems of *Cacalia ovata*, Walt. made that pretty flower very conspicuous. I saw three or four small specimens of *Hydrolea corymbosa*, Ell. although it is now late in the season for it. It is very beautiful with its bright blue corolla and filaments and golden anthers. There were immense, partially submerged patches of the aromatic *Herpestis amplexicaulis*, Pursh., the bright blue of its blossoms nearly

rivalling my pet *Hydrolea*. *Tiedemannia teretifolia*, DC., well named for its curious "terete petioles destitute of leaflets," delighted in the swampy condition of the country and was quite plentiful in some places, though nearly out of flower. *Gerardia purpurea* and a few late blossoms of *Erigeron vernum*, Torr. & Gray., showed themselves occasionally, while *Lobelia glandulosa*, Walt., raised its purplish-blue spike gracefully above the surrounding grasses and sedges. The exceeding brittleness of the stems of this plant makes it rather difficult to press good specimens. Before reaching the "Cabbage hammock" which was our goal, and where we proposed searching the *Sabal Palmetto* trees for *Polypodium aureum*, *Vittaria lineata*, and *Ophioglossum palmatum*, our horse forced the cart through a quarter of an acre of *Pontederia cordata*. The plants averaged four feet in height, and were in full bloom. Among the *Herpestis amplexicaulis* I saw two or three belated flowers of *Piriqueta fulva*, Chapm., and on the edge of the swamp *Kosteletzkya Virginica*, Presl., in blossom. The latter varies very much; in fresh water swamps the plants are generally not much branched and rather weak and diffuse in habit, with small leaves; while in brackish marshes they grow from four to six feet high, very stout, with large leaves. These leaves are strongly rough-hairy, and when a person "rubs the cheeks with them to get a good color" the stinging sensation lasts several minutes. When we reached the "hammock" we fastened the horse, and then carefully picked our way from one comparatively dry place to another, jumping from knoll to knoll or from root to root. Not a fern of any kind rewarded our search, except the common *Polypodium incanum*. Two or three mosses, whose names I do not yet know, were in good condition for collecting, and while looking about for others I spied what seemed to be a flower stem from which all the petals had fallen. I soon saw that it was an orchidaceous plant which I had never seen, and analysis proved it to be *Microstylis Floridana*, Chapm., assigned in the "Southern Flora" to "Apalachicola, Florida" as its habitat. It has two pretty green ovate leaves, and a slender raceme of small curious flowers. The plant is easily overlooked, but a careful search enabled me to secure about thirty good specimens. We found nothing else of special interest in this place, and soon entered the cart upon our return voyage over the watery barrens. Again we pass through masses of yellow *Bigelovia*, and presently reach a place where there are a number of plants of the bright *Coreopsis gladiata*, Walt. This plant is very graceful as it swings its slender stem to and fro in the breeze, showing its deep yellow ray-flowers to good advantage. As we come out

upon high dry sand ridges, we find a brilliant show of fall flowers. Of these one of the most beautiful is *Petalostemon corymbosum*, Michx. which grows plentifully on two or three especially dry ridges. Each root sends up a large cluster of simple stems which are about two feet high, each stem crowned with a corymbose spike of white flowers. One interesting peculiarity of this flower is the calyx, the "teeth" of which are "setaceous, plumose." In the days when my botanical knowledge of Florida flowers was very small, these same plumose teeth puzzled me very much, for they deceived me, and made me try to place the plant in the Composite family. When my blunder was pointed out by a kind friend, and I read Wood's description of this species in his "Class Book of Botany," how I thanked the author for his remark that the "heads resemble the *Compositæ*, with red scales, and lance-oblong petals." *P. carneum*, Michx. resembles *P. corymbosum*, but the solitary heads are rather larger and fewer, and it is readily distinguished by other characteristics. *P. gracile*, Nutt., grows in the wiry grass of the barrens, and sometimes it is necessary to find the roots by tracing the diffuse, perhaps nearly prostrate stems from the flower heads to the root, carefully picking away the tangled grass. The lengthened head of this *Petalostemon* gives it the common name of "Thimble-top." One especially dry place, where the earth is chiefly pure white sand is the only locality of which I know for *Gaillardia lanceolata*, Michx. The plant is quite peculiar in its aspect with its few small leaves and large flowers. The ray-flowers are yellow above and red on the under side, while the disk flowers are a very dark purple, nearly black. *Liatris elegans*, Willd., is a striking ornament to the "piney woods," with its brightly-colored flower-bracts. Some spikes are two feet long and an inch or more in diameter, while an occasional stem has been "topped" by accident and has sent out four or five small spikes. This majestic *Liatris* is truly elegant, and well deserves its name. Two other handsome species are *L. gracilis*, Pursh. with its slender spike of deep purple flowers, and *L. spicata*, Willd., with its large spike of bright light-purple blossoms. The "Florida vanilla," *L. odoratissima*, Willd., is just out of blossom. I saw one flower stem, which was over five feet high; the usual height is about three feet. Several low, wet places were full of *L. paniculata*, Willd., and I suppose that a little farther south, *L. fruticosa*, Nutt., will soon be in bloom. I have never seen it near St. Augustine, but last year while going down to the Halifax river in December, I saw plenty of it just out of bloom. All our species, except the last three, have tuberous roots, and *L. fruticosa*

is shrubby. We passed gay patches of pink *Gerardia filifolia*, Nutt., and yellow *Seymeria tenuifolia*, Pursh; stray plants of *G. parvifolia*, Chapm. all tangled up in the grass; bright golden-yellow *Chrysopsis decumbens*, Chapm. and *C. trichophylla*, Nutt.; pretty white heads of *Palafoxia integrifolia*, Torr. & Gray; black rayless heads of *Helianthus Radula*, Torr. & Gray with its pretty rosette of four large root-leaves lying flat upon the ground; a species of white *Sabbatia*, and two or three varieties of bright yellow "wild sun-flowers." Where the barrens had been burned over, that sure follower of the fire, *Hypoxys juncea*, Smith, had sprung up, and was already in bloom. In rich muddy places especially near houses, *Scoparia dulcis*, L., was an untidy weed. Another of our beautiful fall flowers, *Polygonella parvifolia*, Michx. was just coming into bloom. This tiny delicate flower is very dainty and attractive. It grows in short racemes which make a crowded panicle. The sterile flowers are generally of a pure white color, while the fertile are a yellowish green or bright pink. This *Polygonella* makes a pretty addition to grass bouquets, as it keeps its color and remains secure upon the stem. Of the many other plants that we saw, I have only room to mention *Siphonochia diffusa*, Chapm. This is a very pretty plant; the prostrate stems form mats upon the ground, and the tiny pinkish-white flowers are in numerous "compact, rectangular cymes, terminating all the branches."

MARY C. REYNOLDS.

NEW SPECIES OF FUNGI, BY CHAS. H. PECK.—*ÆCIDIUM MONOICUM*.—Spots none; peridia generally crowded, occupying the whole lower surface of the leaf, subcylindrical; spores subglobose, bright-yellow, .0008-.0011 of an inch in diameter, generally with one to three shining nuclei; spermogonia on different leaves of the same plant.

Leaves of *Arabis retrofracta*. Colorado. T. S. Brandegee. Communicated by E. A. Rau.

From the notes of Mr. Brandegee we learn that early in March when the host plants begin to grow, those affected by the fungus begin to look sickly. They soon turn yellow and never blossom.

ÆCIDIUM POLEMONII.—Spots suborbicular, pallid or greenish-yellow, sometimes confluent; peridia hypophyllous, crowded, short; spores globose or subelliptical, bright orange, .0008-.001 of an inch in diameter, minutely rough; spermogonia central on both sides of the leaf.

Leaves of *Polemonium reptans*. Iowa. May. E. W. Holway.

ÆCIDIUM GILÆ.—Spots pale-yellow; peridia scattered or crowded, short, pustuliform, hypophyllous, rarely also epiphyllous, opening